

CALCULATOR CAPABLE OF RECOVERING CLEARED VALUES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a calculator and, more particularly,
to a calculator capable of recovering cleared values.

2. Description of Related Art

Calculators have been widely used in a variety of fields in our daily
lives due to their powerful functions. For example, calculators are used
10 in shopping, accounting, mathematics, engineering, and statistics for
providing simple functions such as arithmetic calculations or
complicated functions such as scientific operations. When using a
calculator, it is possible that a user may enter erroneous data. When such
an error is found, the user may press one of a plurality of keys provided
15 by the calculator to correct the error. For example, the user may press a
backspace (BACK) key to sequentially correct typing mistakes, a clear
entry (CE) key to clear the current data entry, or a clear (C) key to clear
the data entry. Furthermore, before the calculator generates the final
result, a number of intermediate results may be created, which have to be
20 recorded and/or cleared by pressing CE, C, memory clear (MC) or
memory recall clear (MRC) key, so as to perform subsequent operations.

However, when a user operates a calculator and inadvertently presses
BACK, CE, C, MC, or MRC key to clear useful data, the typical
calculator can only clear or modify the last entered data, while being
25 unable to recover the cleared value. As a result, the user has to perform

the whole calculation again. This is quite time-consuming and inconvenient. Therefore, it is desirable for the above conventional calculator to be improved so as to mitigate and/or obviate the aforementioned problems.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a calculator having a convenient arrangement for recovering cleared values.

To achieve the object, there is provided a calculator capable of recovering cleared values, which comprises: an input unit including
10 deletion keys for clearing currently displayed data or recorded data of the calculator, and an UNDO key for recovering the cleared data; an output unit for displaying the status of the calculator and operating results; an input/output buffer coupled to the input unit and the output unit and providing a display buffer for temporarily storing input and output data; a
15 memory for storing program codes and providing memory space required for operating; an algebra logic processor coupled to the input/output buffer and the memory for providing arithmetic and logical operations; a stack register coupled to the algebra logic processor for temporarily storing previously cleared data by one of the deletion keys, wherein
20 whenever the displayed data or the recorded data is cleared by pressing one of the deletion keys, the cleared data is pushed into the stack register; and a flag register coupled to the algebra logic processor, and being set when the displayed data or recorded data is cleared by pressing one of deletion keys, whereby, when the UNDO key is pressed and if the flag
25 register indicates that the displayed data or recorded data was cleared by

one of the deletion keys previously, a data entry is popped from the stack register and the flag register is cleared.

Other objects, advantages, and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the calculator capable of recovering cleared values according to the present invention; and

FIGS. 2A and 2B show a flow chart of the calculator capable of recovering cleared values according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference to FIG. 1, there is shown a calculator capable of recovering cleared values in accordance with the present invention. The calculator comprises an input (I/P) unit 11, an output (O/P) unit 12, an input/output (I/O) buffer 13, an algebra logic processor 14, a memory 15, a stack register 16, and a flag register 17, wherein the components 13 to 17 can be integrated in a processor on the calculator for providing the functions of logical operation and control.

The algebra logic processor 14 is responsible for providing arithmetic and logical operation capabilities. The memory 15 is responsible for providing program codes and memory space required for performing calculations.

The I/P unit 11 is implemented as a keypad including numerical keys, functional keys, deletion keys for clearing currently displayed data entry

or recorded data entry, and an UNDO key for recovering the cleared value. The deletion keys comprise a backspace (BACK) key, a clear entry (CE) key, a clear (C) key, a memory clear (MC) key, and a memory recall clear (MRC) key.

5 The O/P unit 12 is preferably implemented as a liquid crystal display (LCD) for displaying calculator operation status and results. The I/O buffer 13 is responsible for providing memory space for temporarily storing I/O data. For example, the I/O buffer 13 provides a display buffer for temporarily storing I/O data displayed on the LCD.

10 The stack register 16 is responsible for temporarily storing data previously cleared by one of the deletion keys. That is, whenever displayed data entry or recorded data entry is cleared by pressing one of deletion keys, the cleared data is pushed into the stack register 16.

15 The flag register 17 comprises a CM flag 171, a CE flag 172, a MRC flag 173, and an UNDO recorder 174, which is set when displayed data or recorded data is cleared by pressing one of the deletion keys. Therefore, when the UNDO key is pressed and if the flag register 17 indicates that displayed data or recorded data was cleared by one of the deletion keys previously, a data entry is popped from the stack register 16 and the flag
20 register 17 is cleared, thereby providing an undo function for recovering the cleared value.

25 With reference to FIGS. 2A and 2B, a flow chart is shown on recovering cleared values by using the backspace key, the clear entry key, the clear key, the memory clear key, and the memory recall clear key in accordance with the present invention. When the clear (C) key is pressed,

it is determined whether the calculator was previously in a data input mode or a result display mode (step S201). If the calculator was in a result display mode, the calculation result in the memory 15 is pushed into the stack register 16. Also, the CM flag 171 is set to 1, the CE flag 172 is cleared to 0, the MRC flag 173 is cleared to 0, and the UNDO recorder 174 is set to 1. Then, the display is cleared and related data in the display buffer is deleted (step S202).

When the CE key is pressed or step S201 determines that the calculator is in a data input mode, the input data stored in the display buffer is pushed into the stack register 16. Also, the CM flag 171 is cleared to 0, the CE flag 172 is set to 1, the MRC flag 173 is cleared to 0, and the UNDO recorder 174 is set to 1. Then, the display is cleared and related data in the display buffer is deleted (step S211).

When a value is inputted using the I/P unit 11, the value is entered into the display buffer for display. Also, the CM flag 171 is cleared to 0, and the CE flag 172 is cleared to 0 (step S221). At this moment, if the MRC flag 173 is 0 (step S222), indicating that no MC key or MRC key was used to clear data previously, the stack register 16 can be cleared and the UNDO recorder 174 is cleared to 0 (step S223).

When an operator is inputted using the I/P unit 11, the previously inputted expressions are calculated and the inputted operator is displayed. Also, the CM flag 171 is cleared to 0, and the CE flag 172 is cleared to 0 (step S231). At this moment, if the MRC flag 173 is 0 (step S232), indicating that no MC key or MRC key was used to clear data previously, the stack register 16 can be cleared and the UNDO recorder 174 is

cleared to 0 (step S233).

When the MC key is pressed or the MRC key is pressed two consecutive times, data stored in the display buffer is pushed into the stack register 16. Also, the CM flag 171 is cleared to 0, the CE flag 172 is cleared to 0, the MRC flag 173 is set to 1, and the UNDO recorder 174 is set to 1. Then, the display and an icon "M" are cleared, and related data in the display buffer is cleared (step S251).

When the BACK key is pressed, it is first determined whether there is data in the display buffer (step S261). If yes, the data in the display buffer is pushed into the stack register 16, and the UNDO recorder 174 is incremented. Then, the algebra logic processor 14 performs the backspace operation. Finally, the content of the display and the display buffer is updated (step S262).

When the UNDO key is pressed and the UNDO recorder 174 is not 0 (step S241), indicating that displayed data or recorded data of the calculator has been cleared by pressing the BACK, CE, C, MC, or MRC key, it is determined whether CM flag 171 and CE flag 172 are 0 (step S242). If yes, it is determined whether the MRC flag 173 is 1 (step S243). If yes (MRC=1), it indicates that the MC key was pressed or the MRC key was pressed two consecutive times previously. Hence, the calculator is in a state as indicated by step S251. After the UNDO key is pressed, an entry in the stack register 16 is popped and stored in the memory 15, and an icon "M" is displayed (step S244). If not (MRC=0), it indicates that the BACK key was pressed previously and the calculator is in a state as indicated by step S261. After the UNDO key is pressed, an entry in the

stack register 16 is popped and stored in the display buffer. Also, the UNDO recorder 174 is decremented (step S245). If the determination in step S242 is negative (at least one of CM and CE flags is not 0), it indicates that the C or CE key was pressed previously and the calculator is in a state as indicated by step S202 or S211. After the UNDO key is pressed, an entry in the stack register 16 is popped and stored in the display buffer. Also, the CM flag 171 is cleared to 0, the CE flag 172 is cleared to 0, and the UNDO counter 174 is cleared to 0 (step S246).

In view of the foregoing, with the provision of the UNDO key, the present invention can recover data or displayed results that have been cleared, thereby making the calculator more powerful and convenient to use.

Although the present invention has been explained in relation to its preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that many other possible modifications and variations can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.